

Bailey Peyton to Andrew Jackson, February 23, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

BAILEY PEYTON TO JACKSON.1

1 This letter, though unsigned, is in Peyton's handwriting. Bailey Peyton, of Tennessee, and later of Louisiana and California, was one of Jackson's most vociferous opponents in 1837, standing side by side with the eruptive Henry A. Wise. He was persistent and dashing.

House Of Representatives, February 23, 1837

Sir, I had the honor to submit a communication to you a few days ago, respectfully soliciting a communication to Congress in behalf of the *Old Tennessee Volunteers* . The Army Bill has been up to day, it will be finally passed tomorrow. If those troops are to be paid for the time they were at home after their return from Natchez, and before they re-entered the service and marched to the Creek Nation, to wit, from the 24th of April until the 24th day of September 1813, provision must be made in *this bill* or the application will be lossed, at least for the present, as no other appropriation *Bill* will pass the House this Session, in which it will be proper to make any provision for them. No time is therefore to be lossed if justice already long delayed, is to be at length done to those meritorious soldiers and Officers. I am the more incouraged, in fact feel it to be my duty to them, to make another appeal to you, in their behalf and let you know that arguments are drawn against the claim, from your silence. this has been done this day in debate especially by the Hon Dutee J. Pearce of Rhode Island. The only other object[ion] to the claim, so far as I have heard in debate or otherwise, arises from the fact that gentlemen are not informed

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whether you finally discharged those troops in April 1813, or were they temporarily dismissed at that time subject to be recalled into service for the balance of their term.

Sir I do not wish, nor do I intend to annoy, but believing that one word from you will put into the pockets of your veteran troops one hundred and Thirty five thousand dollars, to which they are justly entitled, I trust you will pardon the trouble which I have given you, and inform me, by an early hour tomorrow, whether those troops were, or were not subject to be recalled into the service, during the balance of the term for which they volunteered; and were they not actually so recalled by you, in september 1813, and did they not serve out their term of twelve months?

I am sir with due respect